

Today, I submit a resolution that denounces the terrorist activities that killed Fernando Buesa and Jorge Díez Elorza, calls again on ETA to renounce the use of violence and terrorism which have taken so many lives, and pledges continued alliance between Spain and the United States, and ask it to be referred to the appropriate committee. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 83—COMMENDING THE PEOPLE OF IRAN FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND POSITIVE POLITICAL REFORM ON THE OCCASION OF IRAN'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. WELLSTONE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to.

S. CON. RES. 83

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran held parliamentary elections on February 18, 2000;

Whereas more than 75 percent of the approximately 39,000,000 eligible voters cast ballots in the elections;

Whereas preliminary results indicate that reformers have won a parliamentary majority, freeing Iran's parliament, the Majlis, of hard-line domination for the first time since the 1979 Iranian revolution;

Whereas reformers won elections despite concerted efforts by hard-line Iranian clergy to ban reformist forces from the ballot; and

Whereas the elections show a clear preference by a majority of Iranian voters for democracy, rule of law, and improved relations with Western nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the people of Iran for their commitment to the democratic process;

(2) congratulates reformist parliamentarians on their recent electoral victory;

(3) reaffirms the desire of the United States to see free, democratic political development, the restoration of the rule of law, and full civil and political rights for all Iranians; and

(4) calls on the Government of Iran to rejoin the community of nations and renounce terrorism, opposition to the Middle East peace process, and the development and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 84—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE NAMING OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER CVN-77, THE LAST VESSEL OF THE HISTORIC "NIMITZ" CLASS OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, AS THE U.S.S. "LEXINGTON"

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. INOUE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 84

Whereas over the last three decades Congress has authorized and appropriated funds for a total of 10 "NIMITZ" class aircraft carriers;

Whereas the last vessel in the "NIMITZ" class of aircraft carriers, CVN-77, is currently under construction and will be delivered in 2008;

Whereas the first nine vessels in this class proudly bear the following names:

- (1) U.S.S. Nimitz (CVN-68).
- (2) U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69).
- (3) U.S.S. Carl Vinson (CVN-70).
- (4) U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71).
- (5) U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72).
- (6) U.S.S. George Washington (CVN-73).
- (7) U.S.S. John C. Stennis (CVN-74).
- (8) U.S.S. Harry S. Truman (CVN-75).
- (9) U.S.S. Ronald Reagan (CVN-76).

Whereas it is now time to recommend to the President, as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, an appropriate name for the final vessel in the "NIMITZ" class of aircraft carriers;

Whereas over the last 25 years the vessels in the "NIMITZ" class of aircraft carriers have served as one of the principal means of United States diplomacy and as one of the principal means for the defense of the United States and our allies around the world;

Whereas the name bestowed upon aircraft carrier CVN-77 should embody the American spirit and provide a lasting symbol of the American commitment to freedom;

Whereas for the citizens of the United States, the name "Lexington" has been synonymous with defense of freedom from the very first battle of the War of the American Revolution and is taught to American schoolchildren as the place of the "shot heard round the world", at which our forebears mustered the courage to gain independence;

Whereas the name "Lexington" has been associated with naval aviation from its origins in the 1920s, when President Harding bestowed the name "Lexington" on the second aircraft carrier in United States history;

Whereas that vessel, the U.S.S. Lexington (CV-2), also known as the "Fighting Lady", saw active service from 1927 until lost in 1942 during the historic Battle of the Coral Sea;

Whereas immediately after that loss, President Franklin D. Roosevelt saw fit to bestow the name "Lexington" on a successor aircraft carrier in order to carry on the fighting spirit to preserve freedom;

Whereas that successor aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Lexington (CV-16), joined the fleet in 1943 and earned 11 battle stars during the Pacific campaigns of World War II as she helped carry the fight to the enemy;

Whereas the U.S.S. Lexington (CV-16) continued her service to the United States after World War II, conducting numerous deployments during the Cold War and completing her 48 years of service as a training aircraft carrier for student aviators; and

Whereas upon the completion of her service and in keeping with the traditions of the Navy, the U.S.S. Lexington (CV-16) was stricken from the Navy Vessel Register on November 30, 1991: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the aircraft carrier CVN-77 should be named the U.S.S. Lexington—

(1) in order to honor the men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II, and the incalculable number of United States citizens on the home front during that war, who mobilized in the name of freedom, and who are today respectfully referred to as the "Greatest Generation"; and

(2) as a special tribute to the 16,000,000 veterans of the Armed Forces who served on land, sea, and air during World War II, of

whom less than 6,000,000 remain alive today, and serve as a lasting symbol of commitment to freedom as they pass on and proudly take their place in history.

SENATE RESOLUTION 259—URGING THE DECOMMISSIONING OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. HELMS (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Oregon) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 259

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement was signed on April 10, 1998, to bring about a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Northern Ireland;

Whereas in a referendum on May 22, 1998, the people of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement provides for the devolution of government from the United Kingdom to local institutions in Northern Ireland and the establishment of a North/South Ministerial Council and a British-Irish Council, and consists of provisions on decommissioning, human rights, policing, and prisoners;

Whereas much progress has been made in the establishment of both the indigenous Northern Ireland institutions and the North/South and British-Irish bodies, hundreds of prisoners from both communities have been released, and a plan for the restructuring of the police force has been put forth;

Whereas the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (the Commission), led by General John de Chastelain, was established to facilitate the process of decommissioning of paramilitary arms as called for in the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the two principal loyalist paramilitary organizations, the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), informed the Commission that they are prepared to move on decommissioning if the Irish Republican Army (IRA) makes clear that the war is over and it will also decommission;

Whereas the Commission's January 31, 2000, report on decommissioning states that though the IRA emphasized that it poses no threat to the peace process, it has not provided any information as to when decommissioning will begin;

Whereas the leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party, John Hume, has called upon the IRA to "demonstrate for all to see its patriotism and desire to move the situation forward by strengthening the peace process through beginning voluntarily the process of decommissioning";

Whereas on February 11, 2000, due to the decommissioning impasse, the British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Peter Mandelson, suspended the Northern Ireland Executive and resumed direct control over the province;

Whereas on February 11, 2000, the Commission issued a report noting the "IRA's recognition that the issue of arms needs to be dealt with in an acceptable way and that this is a necessary objective of a genuine peace process"; and

Whereas recent polls indicate that the overwhelming majority of the people in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland support decommissioning by all paramilitary organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) stresses the importance of decommissioning of weapons held by paramilitaries on all sides without conditions to the success of the peace process in Northern Ireland;

(2) calls upon the Irish Republican Army to make a firm commitment and offer a specific timetable as to when decommissioning of all of their arms and explosives will begin; and

(3) urges the loyalist paramilitary organizations to respond to such an IRA proposal by immediately beginning the process of decommissioning all of their weapons.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I am certainly not alone in my disappointment at the recent turn of events in Northern Ireland. It is a disheartening development. With the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998 and the overwhelming desire for peaceful resolution of the conflict—in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland—the prospects for peace in that troubled region had never seemed better.

The Good Friday Agreement, like all negotiated peace settlements, offers incentives to all parties but it also requires compromises—compromises that most people are willing to make, and have made, in order for peace. I do not pretend to speak for any side in Northern Ireland, but I can imagine that it was difficult for many in the Unionist community to see convicted IRA bombers walk free from prison.

And it was certainly difficult for many in the nationalist community to accept the principal of continued British sovereignty over Northern Ireland. But David Trimble, John Hume, and other honorable men and women have fulfilled their obligations under the Good Friday Agreement in order to give peace the opportunity to take root in Northern Ireland.

The current crisis stems from the refusal of one organization—the Irish Republican Army—to begin the process of decommissioning of their weapons and explosives. The IRA claims it has done enough by keeping its guns silent, by not setting off bombs, by adhering to a cease-fire. But, Mr. President, what kind of democratic system exists when one organization maintains a massive arsenal for potential use in the event that it is dissatisfied with the political process? Is that considered a genuine peace? I maintain that it is not, and it should not be accepted by people in this country.

Let me clear, the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, signed onto decommissioning in the Good Friday Agreement. As the Agreement states: "all participants accordingly reaffirm their commitment to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organizations" and to "use any influence they may have, to achieve the decommissioning of all paramilitary arms within two years", which is May 22 of this year.

Now, Sinn Fein's leader Gerry Adams has said that his organization "has no further room to move", which I find

quite interesting, considering that members of his party were allowed to participate in the local governing structures established by the Good Friday Agreement (but do not seem to be willing to convince the IRA it must fulfill its obligations as well).

I suggest that Mr. Adams be advised that he cannot have it both ways. And to those whose excuse is that the deadline for decommissioning is still three months off (May 22, 2000), I would remind them that there is an established body designed to manage this process and that the IRA refused to make any commitment or offer any timetable for decommissioning to this institution. It is difficult to believe that on May 21, 2000, the IRA would have, in any event, turned over its hundreds of guns, its tons of Semtex, which it maintains as a veto on peace.

We are at a critical point: due to lack of commitment by the IRA on decommissioning, the British government had no choice but to suspend the indigenous institutions of Northern Ireland. Why? Let me merely recite the obvious: Why should Sinn Fein be allowed to participate in legitimate, elected governing bodies when the IRA refuses to disarm? How can we expect the unionist community to deal with Sinn Fein officials in this capacity when the IRA has turned its back on this crucial part of the peace process?

Sinn Fein and the IRA continue to raise the bar; after demanding that the Northern Ireland Executive and Northern Ireland Assembly be established before beginning decommissioning, they now state that if the British withdraw their troops from bases in Northern Ireland, they might consider handing in their weapons. I would remind them that there is an agreement, there is a process that they have signed onto—from which they have benefitted. Their prisoners have been released. Plans for a drastic overhaul of the Royal Ulster Constabulary have been put forth. Cross border institutions have been established and are functioning.

They must abide by their obligations as well. Mr. President, Sinn Fein and the IRA must understand that if they do not, they will not have the support of the United States.

Today I am offering a resolution stressing the importance of decommissioning to the success of the peace in Northern Ireland and calling on the IRA to commit to the process and to offer a timetable as to when they will turn in their arms and explosives. And although the loyalist paramilitary organizations have significantly fewer weapons in their possession, they must fulfill their promise to disarm as well. The two main loyalist paramilitaries have stated that they will disarm when the IRA begins to do so. If the IRA moves on decommissioning, these organizations should respond immediately.

This is an historic moment in Northern Ireland—the best chance for peace

in a quarter of a century. Let us not waste it. We must encourage those who are working for peace. But more importantly, we must make clear to those who want to destroy this opportunity by clinging to old and violent means, they can not succeed.

SENATE RESOLUTION 260—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO UNINSURED AND LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS IN MEDICALLY UNDER SERVED AREAS BE INCREASED IN ORDER TO DOUBLE ACCESS TO CARE OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS

Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. DEWINE, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. INOUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

S. RES. 260

Whereas the uninsured population in the United States continues to grow at over 100,000 individuals per month, and is estimated to reach over 53,000,000 people by 2007;

Whereas the growth in the uninsured population continues despite public and private efforts to increase health insurance coverage;

Whereas nearly 80 percent of the uninsured population are members of working families who cannot afford health insurance or cannot access employer-provided health insurance plans;

Whereas minority populations, rural residents, and single-parent families represent a disproportionate number of the uninsured population;

Whereas the problem of health care access for the uninsured population is compounded in many urban and rural communities by a lack of providers who are available to serve both insured and uninsured populations;

Whereas community, migrant, homeless, and public housing health centers have proven uniquely qualified to address the lack of adequate health care services for uninsured populations, serving over 4,500,000 uninsured patients in 1999, including over 1,000,000 new uninsured patients who have sought care from such centers in the last 3 years;

Whereas health centers care for nearly 7,000,000 minorities, nearly 600,000 farmworkers, and more than 500,000 homeless individuals each year;

Whereas health centers provide cost-effective comprehensive primary and preventive care to uninsured individuals for less than \$1.00 per day, or \$350 annually, and help to reduce the inappropriate use of costly emergency rooms and inpatient hospital care;

Whereas current resources only allow health centers to serve 10 percent of the Nation's 44,000,000 uninsured individuals;

Whereas past investments to increase health center access have resulted in better health, an improved quality of life for all Americans, and a reduction in national health care expenditures; and

Whereas Congress can act now to increase access to health care services for uninsured and low-income people together with or in